

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Patent Office for the careful attention accorded this Application and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the Amendment above and remarks set forth below.

In response to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2004, Applicants have amended independent Claim 93 in order to include certain limitations from dependent claims 95 and 96, and other limitations so as to clearly point out that the claim 93 is directed to an automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading system which includes:

- (i) an object detection subsystem disposed within a hand-supportable housing, for (i) automatically detecting the presence of an object within an object detection field external to the hand-supportable housing..., and (ii) automatically generating an activation control signal in response to the detection of the object within the object detection field; and

- (ii) an automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism, that is activated in response to the generation of the control activation signal, for automaticallycapturing lines of scan data from a scanned 2D bar code symbol structure, decode processing the scan data, and generating a symbol character data string representative of the read 2-D bar code;

- (iii) a bar code symbol data detector for automatically detecting each line of the 2-D bar code symbol during the bar code reading mode of operation, and automatically producing a line of scan data for buffering in a buffer memory, and

- (iv) an audible data capture buffering indicator for automatically generating audible sounds as each line of bar code symbol data is captured and buffered in said buffer memory.

According to the claimed invention, the system is capable of automatically detecting an object within its object detection field, and in response to such object detection, activates its automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism, whereupon a visible linear laser scanning pattern automatically scans a 2-D bar code symbol on the detected object. As each line of scan data is captured from the 2-D bar code symbol, the line of scan data is buffered in a buffer memory and an audible data capture buffering indicator automatically generates audible sounds (e.g. clicks). By this technique, 2-D symbols can be read using a linear visible laser scanning beam, while audible feedback is generated for each line of scan data being captured and buffered, thereby helping the operator to scan the entire 2-D bar code structure, using a linear laser scanner.

Unlike the present invention defined by amended claim 93, US Patent No. 6,415,982 to Bridgelall et al does not disclose, teach or suggest an automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading system with the limitations as claimed.

In marked contrast, US Patent No. 6,415,982 to Bridgelall et al discloses, in Fig. 2B, a manually-triggered hand-held laser scanner having a hand-held mode and stationary mode of operation, and a two-position trigger switch permitting the activation of various functions (e.g. aiming, scanning, EAS deactivation, RF-ID, etc).

In US Patent No. 6,415,982, there is simply no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of an object detection subsystem, a bar code symbol data detector (operating line by line), and a buffer memory, in combination with an audible data capture buffering indicator, as claimed, which “automatically generates audible sounds as each line of bar code symbol data is captured and buffered in the buffer memory.”

Applicants include a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome any judicially-created obviousness-type double patenting rejections in view of US Application No. 10/342,433.


In view therefore, of the Amendment and Remarks set forth above, the present invention defined by amended Claims 93-96 is firmly believed to be neither anticipated by, nor rendered

obvious in view of the prior art of record, and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

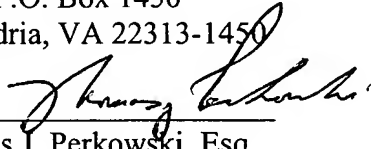
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